

If you have a lease . . .	And if you . . .	Then we may grant you . . .
(c) Located in a designated GOM deep water area and acquired in a lease sale held before November 28, 1995 ( <i>Pre-Act lease</i> ).	Are on a field from which no current pre-Act lease produced (other than test production) before November 28, 1995 ( <i>Authorized field</i> ).	A royalty suspension for a minimum production volume plus any additional volume needed to make the field economic. (See §§ 203.60 through 203.79.)
(d) Located in a designated GOM deep water area and acquired in a lease sale held after November 28, 2000.	Propose a development project and can demonstrate that the suspension volume, if any, for your lease is not enough to make development economic.	A royalty suspension for a minimum production volume plus any additional volume needed to make your project economic (see §§ 203.60 through 203.79).
(e) Where royalty relief would recover significant additional resources or, offshore Alaska or in certain areas of the GOM, would enable development.	Are not eligible to apply for end-of-life or deep water royalty relief, but show us you meet certain eligibility conditions.	A royalty modification in size, duration, or form that makes your lease or project economic (see § 203.80).
(f) Located in a designated GOM shallow water area and acquired in a lease sale held before January 1, 2001, or after January 1, 2004, or have exercised an option to substitute for royalty relief in your lease terms.	Drill a deep well on a lease that is not eligible for deep water royalty relief and you have not previously produced oil or gas from a deep well or an ultra-deep well.	A royalty suspension for a volume of gas produced from successful deep and ultra-deep wells, or, for certain unsuccessful deep and ultra-deep wells, a smaller royalty suspension for a volume of gas or oil produced by all wells on your lease (see §§ 203.40 through 203.49).
(g) Located in a designated GOM shallow water area.	Drill and produce gas from an ultra-deep well on a lease that is not eligible for deep water royalty relief and you have not previously produced oil or gas from an ultra-deep well.	A royalty suspension for a volume of gas produced from successful ultra-deep and deep wells on your lease (see §§ 203.30 through 203.36).
(h) Located in planning areas offshore Alaska.	Propose an expansion project or propose a development project and can demonstrate that the project is uneconomic without relief or that the suspension volume, if any, for your lease is not enough to make development economic.	A royalty suspension for a minimum production volume plus any additional volume needed to make your project economic (see §§ 203.60, 203.62, 203.67 through 203.70, §§ 203.73 and 203.76 through 203.79).

[67 FR 1872, Jan. 15, 2002, as amended at 73 FR 69506, Nov. 18, 2008]

**§ 203.3 Do I have to pay a fee to request royalty relief?**

When you submit an application or ask for a preview assessment, you must include a fee to reimburse us for our costs of processing your application or assessment. Federal policy and law require us to recover the cost of services that confer special benefits to identifiable non-Federal recipients. The Independent Offices Appropriation Act (31 U.S.C. 9701), Office of Management and Budget Circular A-25, and the Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321, April 26, 1996) authorize us to collect these fees.

(a) We will specify the necessary fees for each of the types of royalty relief applications and possible MMS audits in a Notice to Lessees. We will periodically update the fees to reflect changes in costs, as well as provide other information necessary to administer royalty relief.

(b) You must file all payments electronically through the *Pay.gov* Web

site and you must include a copy of the *Pay.gov* confirmation receipt page with your application or assessment. The *Pay.gov* Web site may be accessed through a link on the MMS Offshore Web site at: <http://www.mms.gov/offshore/> homepage or directly through *Pay.gov* at: <https://www.pay.gov/paygov/>.

[73 FR 49946, Aug. 25, 2008]

**§ 203.4 How do the provisions in this part apply to different types of leases and projects?**

The tables in this section summarize the similar application and approval provisions for the discretionary end-of-life and deep water royalty relief programs in §§ 203.50 to 203.91. Because royalty relief for deep gas on leases not subject to deep water royalty relief, as provided for under §§ 203.40 to 203.48, does not involve an application, its provisions do not parallel the other two royalty relief programs and are not summarized in this section.

**§ 203.4**

**30 CFR Ch. II (7–1–11 Edition)**

(a) We require the information elements indicated by an X in the following table and described in §§ 203.51, 203.62, and 203.81 through 203.89 for applications for royalty relief.

Information elements	End-of-life lease	Deep water		
		Expansion project	Pre-act lease	Development project
(1) Administrative information report .....	X	X	X	X
(2) Net revenue and relief justification report (prescribed format) .....	X			
(3) Economic viability and relief justification report (Royalty Suspension Viability Program (RSVP) model inputs justified with Geological and Geophysical (G&G), Engineering, Production, & Cost reports) .....		X	X	X
(4) G&G report .....		X	X	X
(5) Engineering report .....		X	X	X
(6) Production report .....		X	X	X
(7) Deep water cost report .....		X	X	X

(b) We require the confirmation elements indicated by an X in the following table and described in §§ 203.70, 203.81 and 203.90 through 203.91 to retain royalty relief.

Confirmation elements	End-of-life lease	Deep water		
		Expansion project	Pre-act lease	Development project
(1) Fabricator's confirmation report .....		X	X	X
(2) Post-production development report approved by an independent certified public accountant (CPA) .....		X	X	X

(c) The following table indicates by an X, and §§ 203.50, 203.52, 203.60 and 203.67 describe, the prerequisites for our approval of your royalty relief application.

Approval conditions	End-of-life lease	Deep water		
		Expansion	Pre-act lease	Development project
(1) At least 12 of the last 15 months have the required level of production .....	X			
(2) Already producing .....	X			
(3) A producible well into a reservoir that has not produced before .....		X	X	X
(4) Royalties for qualifying months exceed 75% of net revenue (NR) .....	X			
(5) Substantial investment on a pre-Act lease (e.g., platform, subsea template).				
(6) Determined to be economic only with relief .....		X	X	X

(d) The following table indicates by an X, and §§ 203.52 and 203.74 through 203.75 describe, the prerequisites for a redetermination of our royalty relief decision.

Redetermination conditions	End-of-Life lease	Deep water		
		Expansion project	Pre-act lease	Development project
(1) After 12 months under current rate, criteria same as for approval .....	X			
(2) For material change in geologic data, prices, costs, or available technology .....		X	X	X

(e) The following table indicates by an X, and §§ 203.53 and 203.69 describe, the characteristics of approved royalty relief.

**Ocean Energy Bureau, Interior**

**§ 203.5**

Relief rate and volume, subject to certain conditions	End-of-life lease	Deep water		
		Expansion project	Pre-act lease	Development project
(1) One-half pre-application effective lease rate on the qualifying amount, 1.5 times pre-application effective lease rate on additional production up to twice the qualifying amount, and the pre-application effective lease rate for any larger volumes .....	X			
(2) Qualifying amount is the average monthly production for 12 qualifying months .....	X			
(3) Zero royalty rate on the suspension volume and the original lease rate on additional production .....		X	X	X
(4) Suspension volume is at least 17.5, 52.5 or 87.5 million barrels of oil equivalent (MMBOE) .....			X	
(5) Suspension volume is at least the minimum set in the Notice of Sale, the lease, or the regulations .....		X		X
(6) Amount needed to become economic .....		X	X	X

(f) The following table indicates by circumstances under which we dis- an X, and §§203.54 and 203.78 describe, continue your royalty relief.

Full royalty resumes when	End-of-life lease	Deep water		
		Expansion project	Pre-act lease	Development project
(1) Average NYMEX price for last 12 months is at least 25 percent above the average for the qualifying months .....	X			
(2) Average NYMEX price for last calendar year exceeds \$28/bbl or \$3.50/mcf, escalated by the gross domestic product (GDP) deflator since 1994 .....		X	X	
(3) Average prices for designated periods exceed levels we specify in the Notice of Sale or the lease .....		X		X

(g) The following table indicates by 203.77 describe, circumstances under an X, and §§203.55 and 203.76 through which we end or reduce royalty relief.

Relief withdrawn or reduced	End-of-life lease	Deep water		
		Expansion project	Pre-act lease	Development project
(1) If recipient requests .....	X	X	X	X
(2) Lease royalty rate is at the effective rate for 12 consecutive months ....	X			
(3) Conditions occur that we specified in the approval letter in individual cases .....	X			
(4) Recipient does not submit post-production report that compares expected to actual costs .....		X	X	X
(5) Recipient changes development system .....		X	X	X
(6) Recipient excessively delays starting fabrication .....		X	X	X
(7) Recipient spends less than 80 percent of proposed pre-production costs prior to start of production .....		X	X	X
(8) Amount of relief volume is produced .....		X	X	X

[67 FR 1873, Jan. 15, 2002, as amended at 69 FR 3509, Jan. 26, 2004]

**§ 203.5 What is MMS’s authority to collect information?**

(a) The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements in this part under 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, and assigned OMB Control Number 1010-0071. The title of this information collection

is “30 CFR part 203, Relief or Reduction in Royalty Rates.”

(b) The MMS collects this information to make decisions on the economic viability of leases requesting a suspension or elimination of royalty or net profit share. Responses are required to obtain a benefit or are mandatory according to 43 U.S.C. 1331 *et*